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PATENT

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace page 1, lines 22 through 27 with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/851,461, entitled "SCHEDULING THE DISPATCH OF CELLS IN MULTISTAGE SWITCHES", listing H. Jonathan Chao and Eiji Oki as inventors, and filed on May 8, 2001. This application is incorporated herein by reference.